



Arizona Department of Water Resources

Conserving Water Today For Arizona's Tomorrow

Water-Conserving Tips for Washing Your Car



Wash Your Vehicle at the Car Wash!



Washing your vehicle at home can use up to 148 gallons of water or more for one washing, especially if you leave the hose running without an automatic shut off nozzle. Patronizing a car wash that either recycles water on site or sends the used water to a treatment plant is often the most water efficient way to wash your vehicle.

Here are some tips and technologies that will help you save water while washing your car, as well as information on the types of car washes available:

Water Use in Three Types of Professional Car Washes

1. Self-service car washes:

Use roughly **12 gallons** per vehicle in desert regions. The number of gallons lost to evaporation and carryout (water that is still on the vehicle at time of exit) equal about 20% of the water used.

2. In-bay automatic car washes:

Use roughly **72.5 gallons** per vehicle by rotating the washing equipment around a stationary vehicle. It loses 33% of the water used due to evaporation and carryout.

3. Convey or driven automatic car washes:

Use **44 gallons** per vehicle and loses 17% of that to evaporation and carryout. This type of automatic car wash is recommended above In-Bay automatic car washes.



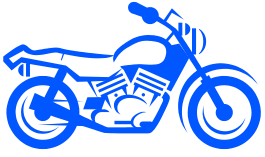
	Gallons per Vehicle	Evaporation & Carryout
Self-serve	12.3	19.8%
In-bay	72.5	32.8%
Conveyor	43.8	16.7%

Table is taken from the International Car Wash Association, 2000.

Things to Look for at the Car Wash

- Recycles water and uses recycled water
- Low flow spray-wand nozzles at self-serve car washes
- Positive shut-off valves on hand-held spray wands

Note: Some establishments, not all, display signs or association logos that will help identify them as a water conserving car wash.



Tips for Washing Your Vehicle at Home



It is much more water efficient to wash your vehicle at a professional car wash! If you still chose to wash your vehicle at home, here are some tips to save water:

- ◆ If you must wash with water, use a bucket and a sponge or towel.
- ◆ Rinse quickly with a hose at the end.



- ◆ Wash your vehicle on dirt or grass. Avoid pavement where water will evaporate or run into the street.
- ◆ Soil acts as a natural filtration system for water. Your lawn will not be harmed, in fact, it'll help keep the soapy water out of the storm drain and from contaminating waterways.

- ◆ Equip your hose with an automatic shut-off valve so that water will only run when it is needed.



If possible, use waterless car-wash products that are currently on the market.

There are multiple types and brands to choose from, such as:

- ◆ Spray-on waterless formulas you wipe away instead of rinse
- ◆ Waxes with powerful cleaning properties
- ◆ Car dusters which lift dust off your vehicle without scratching the paint

Most waterless car wash products can be found online, and some can be found in automotive stores.

For More Water Conservation Information

Visit our website: www.azwater.gov/conservation, or call: (602) 771-8585

This fact sheet has been developed by the Arizona Department of Water Resources' Statewide Water Conservation Program in an effort to strengthen the culture of conservation throughout Arizona.